



CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

May 19, 2006

Ms. Wendy Cohen
Policy and Planning Unit
Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Comments on Tentative Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements
for Discharges from Irrigated Lands – Proposed Orders

Dear Ms. Cohen:

California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) has reviewed the subject tentative order and offers the following comments.

CUWA urges the Regional Board to adopt the tentative order. We believe it is a reasonable approach to continuing the process of understanding the impacts of agricultural activities on water quality while a long term program is developed. We are hopeful that the monitoring program and implementation of management practices will improve our understanding of the impacts of agricultural activities on water quality.

CUWA commends the Regional Board staff and the Executive Officer for engaging the stakeholders in the Policy Group and the Technical Issues Committee to help craft this tentative order. We are cognizant of the fact that Regional Board staff devoted many hours working with stakeholders to resolve issues identified at Regional Board meetings last fall. We greatly appreciate the fact that CUWA was invited to participate in these discussions and that Regional Board staff understand our concerns regarding protection of drinking water supplies in the Central Valley.

CUWA urges the Regional Board to continue the collaborative stakeholder process while developing the long term program. When the Regional Board staff proposes a long term program in the next several years, it will have the greatest chance of meeting with acceptance by the regulated community and other stakeholders if it is developed in a collaborative process. CUWA requests that Regional Board staff include us in any stakeholder processes that are established for the long term program.

Thank you for your devotion to this challenging program. Please contact our water quality consultant, Elaine Archibald at 916-736-3713 if you have any questions on our comments.

Sincerely,

Steve Macaulay
Executive Director